

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

(Currently Amended) A system for use in conducting coronary surgery manipulating a heart during cardiac surgery permits coronary surgery on a beating heart while maintaining cardiac output unabated and uninterrupted. Circumflex coronary artery surgery can be performed using the system. The system includes a first device for engaging and repositioning the beating heart to a displaced position, and is capable of maintaining the heart in the displaced position to perform a surgical procedures. The system includes a second device adapted to engage a portion of the heart to immobilize that portion for conducting a surgical procedure in the immobilized location, while the remainder of the heart continues to beat. Both first and second devices may be adapted to be fixed to a relatively stationary object, such as a frame, which may be a sternal retractor, locates a suspension head near the apical region of the heart and a gross support near the base of the heart near the AV groove. A frame is positioned within the patient's thoracic region and moves with the patient, and a surgical target immobilizer can be used to assist in the movement of the heart if desired. A special suction cup is used which accommodates multiplanar movement of the heart and the myocardium while also preventing heart tissue from interrupting the suction being applied to the heart. One form of the system can be used in minimally invasive surgery.